

1                                   **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86**

2                   (By Delegates Martin, Paxton, Andes and Savilla)

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6 Requesting the Division of Highways to name the bridge located on  
7       the new Route 35, crossing Route 34 at Poplar Fork, Putnam  
8       County, specifically bridge number 40-35-2.40, the "PFC Roger  
9       Lee Byus Memorial Bridge".

10       WHEREAS, Roger Lee Byus was born on March 23, 1949, the son of  
11 Mervin C. Byus, Jr. and Alma Ruth Ball Byus in Winfield, Putnam  
12 County, West Virginia and raised and educated in Putnam County. He  
13 attended Black Lick School, a one-room elementary school near his  
14 home, Hurricane Middle School and Hurricane High School, where he  
15 played football. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and riding  
16 motorcycles and any activity related to snow. He was employed by  
17 C. H. Heist Corporation. He married Judy Elaine Dillon on  
18 September 19, 1966. Eight days later she was killed in an  
19 automobile accident; and

20       WHEREAS, On March 20, 1969, Roger Lee Byus was inducted into  
21 the United States Army along with his two best friends, William  
22 Gillespie and Keith Grant and were sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky  
23 where he completed his basic and AIT training. He was then sent to  
24 Vietnam, arriving there on October 13, 1969, where he became a  
25 member of the elite 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry, Blackhorse Regiment,  
26 Second Squadron, E Troop as a gunner. On November 24, 1969, while

1 on a volunteer mission in Phuoc Long, South Vietnam, E Troop  
2 encountered enemy forces and called for mortar support. The  
3 coordinates were incorrectly sent and E Troop suffered a direct hit  
4 injuring PFC Roger Lee Byus who was dead upon arrival at a base  
5 hospital; and

6 WHEREAS, PFC Roger Lee Byus made the ultimate sacrifice for his  
7 country, during the conflict in Vietnam, earning the Purple Heart,  
8 Bronze Star and other medals posthumously; and

9 WHEREAS, The nature of the sacrifice of this brave and  
10 courageous son of Putnam County requires us to honor his memory, by  
11 ensuring that future generations are aware of his bravery and  
12 sacrifice in the cause of freedom; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

14 That the Legislature hereby requests the Commissioner of the  
15 Division of Highways to name bridge number 40-35-2.40, located on  
16 the new Route 35, crossing Route 34 at Poplar Fork, Putnam County  
17 the "PFC Roger Lee Byus Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

18 *Further Resolved*, That the Commissioner of the Division of  
19 Highways is hereby requested to cause to be fabricated signs to be  
20 erected at each entry of said bridge, containing bold and prominent  
21 letters proclaiming the bridge to be the "PFC Roger Lee Byus  
22 Memorial Bridge"; and, be it

23 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates  
24 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of  
25 Transportation, the Commissioner of the Division of Highways, and  
26 the surviving family of PFC Roger Lee Byus.